

Proposed Projects using this database

Family Research - This Chronology includes the names of every Canadian or Newfoundland airman or woman lost during the Second World War, but it also contains many references to those who were injured, wounded, taken prisoner or served and survived the war. Searching for family members may yield information not known to the descendants of these airmen.

Home Towns - Looking up those lost in the war by their home towns could lead to projects to find relatives, or still existing records in churches, schools or newspapers, or photographs. Especially in smaller communities how did the loss of these people affect families or the community as a whole? Are there any memorials to these people in the community, or perhaps overseas? There is also a listing of all communities mentioned in the text. Did the war affect your town? Did, for example, a balloon bomb come down near your community? Or was there a PoW camp nearby?

Crash Sites - In the text of the Chronology I have attempted to list the locations of every training or operational crash that occurred in Canada and North America. Some of these crash sites would have been cleaned up and be hard to locate but some still have parts that remain where they fell. Many sites have no indication that young Canadians, British, Australians, New Zealanders or US citizens died or were injured there. If there is a crash site near where you live try to locate it, and perhaps create a memorial or record of the loss.

RAF, RNZAF, RAAF killed in Canada - In Europe many have not forgotten Canadians and Newfoundlanders who were killed and who remain buried in their country. In many countries these graves are tended by school children and they are taught who these men were and why they came to be in their cemeteries. But in Canada we have not widely remembered the young men from other countries who came here for training and lost their lives in accidents or by chance. The graves of these airmen may be in your community, and their families remain overseas. Check the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website which lists the graves and memorials of these men in Canada, and maybe contact their office in Ottawa. Perhaps there are some graves that could benefit from some regular care, and researching these men who came to fly but still remain might shed light on

Canada's contribution to the war through training aircrew who then served around the world. Contacting their families in other countries would also create connections to remember what was done during the war by many countries.

BCATP Airfields - This program extended across Canada and established more than airfields. There were training programs in schools and other facilities, relief landing areas to practice landings, gunnery and bombing ranges, even recreational facilities, roads and rail lines built to service the training. How much of that still remains in your community? In the newspapers, church records or on the ground? Perhaps members of your community met and married due to this program, and either left or came and settled and raised families there? What was the effect on a town when suddenly an airfield was built nearby?

Newspapers - Local newspapers were the main news source of this period. What can you find in your community about the people who lived in your town or city during the war. Those who served, and those who stayed and produced the food and weapons needed in the war effort. What was it like for those who remained at home? How were they affected by men leaving, by rationing, or by changes in the workplace? Was anyone in your community detained by the authorities and why? Was there discrimination against people who had come from other countries that were now enemies, or those who chose not to fight or support the war? What can you find in your local newspaper about your town.

Family Records - Does your family still have letters from relatives who were away during the war? These are the actual words and feelings of your ancestors. Comparing the dates of the letters with the Chronology may reveal now what wartime censorship might have kept out of these letters to their families. Airmen were not supposed to carry diaries or cameras with them during the war but many did. Do these diaries and photographs still exist? Airmen were also required to keep a logbook to prove their training and experience and the operations they flew on, especially pilots. These are now valuable sources of information on events, aircraft, people and operations carried out. Does your family have one of these? If the meanings or importance of its notations are not clear checking the dates in this Chronology or taking it to a Museum may give interesting information

on what your father, grandfather or uncle did in the Air Force. (A note of caution, these have become collectable and sometimes objects of theft. Do not give original logbooks to strangers you have just met. If requested, send copies. That caution applies to diaries, letters and photographs as well).

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